

## **Website Privacy Policy**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to the privacy policy of MuirCroft Housing Association Limited.

MuirCroft Housing Association Limited respects your privacy and is committed to protecting your personal data. This privacy policy will inform you as to how we look after your personal data when you visit our website (regardless of where you visit it from) and tell you about your privacy rights and how the law protects you.

### **1. Important information and who we are**

#### **Purpose of this privacy policy**

This privacy policy aims to give you information on how MuirCroft Housing Association Limited collects and processes your personal data through your use of this website, including any data you may provide through this website when you use the 'Contact us' section to send a message or query.

This website is not intended for children and we do not knowingly collect data relating to children.

It is important that you read this privacy policy together with any other privacy policy or fair processing policy we may provide on specific occasions when we are collecting or processing personal data about you so that you are fully aware of how and why we are using your data. This privacy policy supplements other notices and privacy policies and is not intended to override them.

#### **Controller**

MuirCroft Housing Association Limited (a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 with Registered Number 19876R) is the controller and is responsible for your personal data (collectively referred to as "MuirCroft", "we", "us" or "our" in this privacy policy).

We have appointed our Chief Executive, Helen Barber, as our Data Protection Officer ("DPO"). If you have any questions about this privacy policy, including any requests to exercise your legal rights, please contact the DPO using the details set out below.

#### **Contact details**

If you have any questions about this privacy policy or our privacy practices, please contact our DPO in the following ways:

Email address: [helen@muircroft.co.uk](mailto:helen@muircroft.co.uk)

Postal address: DPO, Muir House, Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton, SO45 4NY, United Kingdom

Telephone number: 023 8084 9481

You have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the UK regulator for data protection issues ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). We would, however, appreciate the chance to deal with your concerns before you approach the ICO so please contact us in the first instance.

## Changes to the privacy policy and your duty to inform us of changes

We keep our privacy policy under regular review. This version was last updated in December 2021.

It is important that the personal data we hold about you is accurate and current. Please keep us informed if your personal data changes during your relationship with us.

### Third-party links

This website may include links to third-party websites, plug-ins and applications. Clicking on those links or enabling those connections may allow third parties to collect or share data about you. We do not control these third-party websites and are not responsible for their privacy statements. When you leave our website, we encourage you to read the privacy policy of every website you visit.

## 2. The data we collect about you

Personal data, or personal information, means any information about an individual from which that person can be identified. It does not include data where the identity has been removed (anonymous data).

We may collect, use, store and transfer different kinds of personal data about you which we have grouped together as follows:

- **Identity Data** includes first name, middle name, last name, or similar identifier, title, and gender.
- **Contact Data** includes postal address, email address and telephone number.
- **Technical Data** includes internet protocol (IP) address, browser type and version, time zone setting and location, browser plug-in types and versions, operating system and platform, and other technology on the devices you use to access this website.
- **Usage Data** includes information about how you use our website.

We do not collect any **Special Categories of Personal Data** about you (this includes details about your race or ethnicity, religious or philosophical beliefs, sex life, sexual orientation, political opinions, trade union membership, information about your health, and genetic and biometric data). Nor do we collect any information about criminal convictions and offences.

### If you fail to provide personal data

Where we need to collect personal data by law, or under the terms of a contract we have with you (or are entering into with you), and you fail to provide that data when requested, we may not be able to perform (or enter into) the contract we have (or are trying to enter into) with you (for example, to provide you with housing or other services).

## 3. How is your personal data collected?

We use different methods to collect data from and about you including through:

- **Direct interactions.** You may give us your Identity or Contact Data by filling in forms or by corresponding with us by post, phone, email or otherwise. This includes personal data you provide when you:
  - request an application pack to be sent to you;
  - fill out an 'Application for Sheltered Housing' form, 'Transfer Request' form, 'Application for Mutual Exchange' or 'Independent Living Assessment' form; or

- give us feedback or contact us.
- **Automated technologies or interactions.** As you interact with our website, we will automatically collect Technical Data about your equipment, browsing actions and patterns. We collect this personal data by using cookies and other similar technologies. Please see our cookie policy for further details.
- **Third parties.** We will receive personal data about you from various third parties as set out below:
- Technical Data from analytics providers such as Google based outside the UK.

#### 4. How we use your personal data

We will only use your personal data when the law allows us to. Most commonly, we will use your personal data in the following circumstances:

- Where we need to process your application for housing.
- Where it is necessary in order to update and maintain our waiting lists.
- Where we need to perform the contract we are about to enter into or have entered into with you.
- Where it is necessary for our legitimate interests (or those of a third party) and your interests and fundamental rights do not override those interests.
- Where we need to comply with a legal obligation.

Please see the **LAWFUL BASIS** section in the Glossary below to find out more about the types of lawful basis that we will rely on to process your personal data.

Where we are processing housing applications, planning support, planning potential adaptations or signposting potential tenants for care provision, our lawful basis for collecting your personal data is your consent. Your consent is requested in the application form when you apply for a tenancy. You have the right to withdraw consent to marketing at any time by contacting us.

#### Purposes for which we will use your personal data

We have set out below, in a table format, a description of all the ways we plan to use your personal data, and which of the legal bases we rely on to do so. We have also identified what our legitimate interests are where appropriate.

Note that we may process your personal data for more than one lawful ground depending on the specific purpose for which we are using your data. Please contact us if you need details about the specific legal ground we are relying on to process your personal data where more than one ground has been set out in the table below.

Purpose/Activity	Type of data	Lawful basis for processing including basis of legitimate interest
Processing your application form	(a) Identity (b) Contact	(a) Processing your application for housing to assess eligibility  (b) Processing any other relevant application, including a 'Transfer Request' form, 'Application for Mutual Exchange' form or 'Independent Living Assessment' form.  (c) Maintaining you on our waiting lists.
To manage our relationship with you which will include:	(a) Identity	(a) Performance of a contract with you

(a) Notifying you about changes to our terms or privacy policy (b) Informing you about waiting lists, changes to waiting lists and availability of our services	(b) Contact (c) Profile	(b) Necessary to comply with a legal obligation (c) Necessary for our legitimate interests (to keep our records updated and to study how you use our products/services)
Processing your query or message to us	(a) Identity (b) Contact	(a) Responding to your specific query or concern
To administer and protect our organisation and this website (including troubleshooting, data analysis, testing, system maintenance, support, reporting and hosting of data)	(a) Identity (b) Contact (c) Technical	(a) Necessary for our legitimate interests (for running our organisation, provision of administration and IT services, network security, to prevent fraud and in the context of a reorganisation or group restructuring exercise) (b) Necessary to comply with a legal obligation
To use data analytics to improve our website, products/services, marketing, user experiences	(a) Technical (b) Usage	Necessary for our legitimate interests (to define types of users for our services, to keep our website updated and relevant, to develop our offerings and to inform our marketing strategy)

## Cookies

You can set your browser to refuse all or some browser cookies, or to alert you when websites set or access cookies. If you disable or refuse cookies, please note that some parts of this website may become inaccessible or not function properly. For more information about the cookies we use, please see our cookie policy.

## Change of purpose

We will only use your personal data for the purposes for which we collected it, unless we reasonably consider that we need to use it for another reason and that reason is compatible with the original purpose. If you wish to get an explanation as to how the processing for the new purpose is compatible with the original purpose, please contact us.

If we need to use your personal data for an unrelated purpose, we will notify you and we will explain the legal basis which allows us to do so.

Please note that we may process your personal data without your knowledge or consent, in compliance with the above rules, where this is required or permitted by law.

## 5. Disclosures of your personal data

We may share your personal data with the parties set out below for the purposes set out in the table above.

- The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in relation to Universal Credit matters
- The New Forest District Council
- The TV Licensing Authority
- Third parties to whom we may choose to sell, transfer or merge parts of our organisation or our assets. Alternatively, we may seek to acquire other businesses or merge with them. If a change happens to our

organisation, then the new owners may use your personal data in the same way as set out in this privacy policy.

We require all third parties to respect the security of your personal data and to treat it in accordance with the law. We do not allow our third-party service providers to use your personal data for their own purposes and only permit them to process your personal data for specified purposes and in accordance with our instructions.

## **6. International transfers**

We do not transfer your personal data outside the UK or EEA.

## **7. Data security**

We have put in place appropriate security measures to prevent your personal data from being accidentally lost, used or accessed in an unauthorised way, altered or disclosed. In addition, we limit access to your personal data to those employees, agents, contractors and other third parties who have a business need to know. They will only process your personal data on our instructions and they are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

We have put in place procedures to deal with any suspected personal data breach and will notify you and any applicable regulator of a breach where we are legally required to do so.

## **8. Data retention**

### **How long will you use my personal data for?**

We will only retain your personal data for as long as reasonably necessary to fulfil the purposes we collected it for, including for the purposes of satisfying any legal, regulatory, tax, accounting or reporting requirements. We may retain your personal data for a longer period in the event of a complaint or if we reasonably believe there is a prospect of litigation in respect to our relationship with you.

To determine the appropriate retention period for personal data, we consider the amount, nature and sensitivity of the personal data, the potential risk of harm from unauthorised use or disclosure of your personal data, the purposes for which we process your personal data and whether we can achieve those purposes through other means, and the applicable legal, regulatory, tax, accounting or other requirements.

## **9. Your legal rights**

Under certain circumstances, you have rights under data protection laws in relation to your personal data.

If you wish to exercise any of the rights set out above, please contact us.

### **No fee usually required**

You will not have to pay a fee to access your personal data (or to exercise any of the other rights). However, we may charge a reasonable fee if your request is clearly unfounded, repetitive or excessive. Alternatively, we could refuse to comply with your request in these circumstances.

### **What we may need from you**

We may need to request specific information from you to help us confirm your identity and ensure your right to access your personal data (or to exercise any of your other rights). This is a security measure to ensure that personal data is

not disclosed to any person who has no right to receive it. We may also contact you to ask you for further information in relation to your request to speed up our response.

### **Time limit to respond**

We try to respond to all legitimate requests within one month. Occasionally it could take us longer than a month if your request is particularly complex or you have made a number of requests. In this case, we will notify you and keep you updated.

## **10. Glossary**

### **LAWFUL BASIS**

**Legitimate Interest** means the interest of our organisation in conducting and managing our organisation to enable us to give you the best service/product and the best and most secure experience. We make sure we consider and balance any potential impact on you (both positive and negative) and your rights before we process your personal data for our legitimate interests. We do not use your personal data for activities where our interests are overridden by the impact on you (unless we have your consent or are otherwise required or permitted to by law). You can obtain further information about how we assess our legitimate interests against any potential impact on you in respect of specific activities by contacting us.

**Performance of Contract** means processing your data where it is necessary for the performance of a contract to which you are a party or to take steps at your request before entering into such a contract.

**Comply with a legal obligation** means processing your personal data where it is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation that we are subject to.

### **THIRD PARTIES**

#### **External Third Parties**

- The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in relation to Universal Credit matters
- The New Forest District Council
- The TV Licensing Authority
- Third parties to whom we may choose to sell, transfer or merge parts of our organisation or our assets.

### **YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

You have the right to:

**Request access** to your personal data (commonly known as a "data subject access request"). This enables you to receive a copy of the personal data we hold about you and to check that we are lawfully processing it.

**Request correction** of the personal data that we hold about you. This enables you to have any incomplete or inaccurate data we hold about you corrected, though we may need to verify the accuracy of the new data you provide to us.

**Request erasure** of your personal data. This enables you to ask us to delete or remove personal data where there is no good reason for us continuing to process it. You also have the right to ask us to delete or remove your personal data where you have successfully exercised your right to object to processing (see below), where we may have processed your information unlawfully or where we are required to erase your personal data to comply with local law.

Note, however, that we may not always be able to comply with your request of erasure for specific legal reasons which will be notified to you, if applicable, at the time of your request.

**Object to processing** of your personal data where we are relying on a legitimate interest (or those of a third party) and there is something about your particular situation which makes you want to object to processing on this ground as you feel it impacts on your fundamental rights and freedoms. You also have the right to object where we are processing your personal data for direct marketing purposes. In some cases, we may demonstrate that we have compelling legitimate grounds to process your information which override your rights and freedoms.

**Request restriction of processing** of your personal data. This enables you to ask us to suspend the processing of your personal data in the following scenarios:

- If you want us to establish the data's accuracy.
- Where our use of the data is unlawful but you do not want us to erase it.
- Where you need us to hold the data even if we no longer require it as you need it to establish, exercise or defend legal claims.
- You have objected to our use of your data but we need to verify whether we have overriding legitimate grounds to use it.

**Request the transfer** of your personal data to you or to a third party. We will provide to you, or a third party you have chosen, your personal data in a structured, commonly used, machine-readable format. Note that this right only applies to automated information which you initially provided consent for us to use or where we used the information to perform a contract with you.

**Withdraw consent at any time** where we are relying on consent to process your personal data. However, this will not affect the lawfulness of any processing carried out before you withdraw your consent. If you withdraw your consent, we may not be able to provide certain products or services to you. We will advise you if this is the case at the time you withdraw your consent.